

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 01229 130931Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /080 W
-----033134 130941Z /14

R 130910Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SE/STATE WASHDC 3236
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1229

AF/W FOR SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EIND GV US UR EAIR
SUBJECT: MOUSSA DIAKITE AND BOEING AIRCRAFT

REF: CONAKRY 1217

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL, MOUSSA DIAKITE
(POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER) MINISTER OF INTERIOR DOMAIN,
PRESIDENT OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATION WITH AMERICAS)
SAID SEKOU TOURE HAD INSTRUCTED HIM ON JULY 11 TO ASK
EMBASSY TO FACILITATE OPENING DISCUSSIONS ON ACQUISITION OF
BOEING PASSENGER AIRCRAFT. DIAKITE SAID GUINEA'S EXPERIENCE
WITH SOVIET AIRCRAFT, PARTICULARLY SPARE PARTS, HAD PROVED
"DISAPPOINTING;" TOURE NOW WISHED TO DIVERSIFY AIR GUINEA'S
INVENTORY. TOURE HAD IN MIND POSSIBLY STARTING WITH ONE
BOEING 737 AND ONE 707, DEPENDING ON TERMS AVAILABLE, FOR
EXTERNAL ROUTES PRIMARILY. DIAKITE PUT THIS IN CONTEXT OF

GOG'S RECENT "OPENINGS" TO CARTER ADMINISTRATION, "REAL
NON-ALIGNMENT" AND INTEREST IN CREATING STRONGER BONDS WITH
U.S. ON MANY LEVELS.

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2. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD THAT GOG-SOVIET FRICTION
PEAKED WITHIN PAST SEVERAL WEEKS WHEN SOVIETS DEMANDING HARD-
CURRENCY CASH, DELAYED SERVICING SPARE PARTS OF AIR GUINEA AIR-
CRAFT IN USSR AND/OR SENT ONE BACK IN POOR SHAPE. ALSO WITHIN
PAST TWO WEEKS GOG HAS GIVEN FRENCH "SHOPPING LIST OF ITEMS
RANGING FROM HELICOPTERS, SMALLER PASSENGER AIRCRAFT AND 707
LEASE. DESPITE A MUCH IMPROVED FOREIGN EXCHANGE SITUATION FROM

MOUNTING BAUXITE EXPORTS, GUINEA PURCHASE OR LEASE OF BOEING MAY PROVE TOO AMBITIOUS IN VIEW GOG'S DEBT. NEVERTHE-
LESS WE WISH TO HANDLE THIS REQUEST FOR HELP AS
EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, AGAINST BACKGROUND OF GOG'S
RECENT FORTHCOMING ACTIONS AND DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH
U.S. (REFTEL). SUGGEST VISIT OF BOEING REPS, COMPETENT TECHNIC-
ALLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY TO BEGIN RESPOND TO GOG'S PROBLEM.
MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, FOR EXPAMPLE, FOR U.S. FIRM, BASED ON
SALES POSSIBILITY, TO OFFER COMPUTER STUDY OF WHAT
AIRCRAFT INVENTORY WOULD MAKE BEST SENSE FOR GUINEA.
PLEASE ADVISE. END COMMENT.

3.DIAKITE ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT SEKOU TOURE HAD
ORDERED HIM TO MAXIMIZE STATE COMMITTEE'S "OPENING"
TO EMBASSY AND USG AND TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS
IN EVERY PRACTICAL WAY. FOR EXAMPLE, HE HOPED AT SOME
POINT TO TRAVEL TO U.S. HIMSELF FOR TALKS WITH AS MANY
NEW POTENTIAL INVESTOR-FIRMS AS POSSIBLE. COMMENT:
HE REFERRED AT LENGTH TO HIS VISIT WITH PRESIDENT
KENNEDY IN EARLY 1960'S AND TO HIS ROLE IN LAUNCHING
CGB; HE IS PROBABLY IN PART MOTIVATED PERSONALLY TO
RECOUP BEING OVERSHADOWED BY GLOW OF RECENT BEAVOGUI
VISIT. WE DID NOT ENCOURAGE VISIT AND DOUBT IT WILL TAKE
PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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